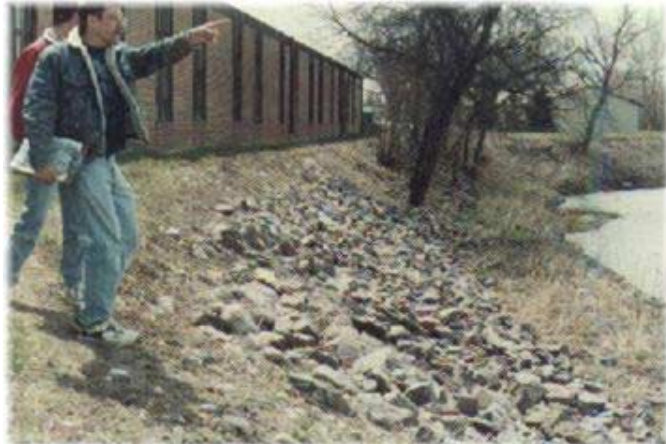




US Army Corps
of Engineers
St. Paul District

Information Paper

Section 205, Flood Control Continuing Authority, Red River of the North: Breckenridge, Minn.



Erosion of the riverbank on the Red River of the North at the north end of Breckenridge, Minn., threatens a nursing home.

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Location/Description

Breckenridge, Minn., is located in Wilkin County in western Minnesota, approximately 200 miles north and west of the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area. The Red River of the North and the Bois de Sioux River bound the city on the west. The Ottertail River flows from the east, bisecting the city. The city of Wahpeton, N.D., lies across the Red River from Breckenridge and may be a factor in the evaluation.

The 1997 flood in the Red River basin generated a strong determination by all levels of government to identify quickly, evaluate and implement permanent flood reduction projects for existing urban communities along the Red River of the North. The communities include Breckenridge and its sister city, Wahpeton.

Authority

Section 205 of the 1948 Flood Control Act, as amended. Section 205 authorizes construction of small projects for flood control and related purposes not specifically authorized by Congress. Projects recommended for construction under Section 205 must be economically justified and limited to a federal cost of \$7 million. However, WRDA 2000 specifically authorized this project and it will transition from a small project to a specific project in FY01-FY02.

Status

Flooding in 1997 devastated much of the city of Breckenridge. The devastation resulted in public and interagency recognition that a permanent flood reduction project was needed at Breckenridge and also at its adjacent sister city of Wahpeton, N.D. In order for the federal government to become involved, a partnership was formed among the city, state and federal governments that combined and leveraged funding and expertise. This partnership became official on June 29, 1999, when the parties initiated cost-shared Feasibility Studies. A draft Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment was distributed in July 2000 for a formal public and interagency review. The Feasibility Studies were completed in September 2000 and submitted for approval in November 2000.

The Feasibility Study identified a feasible flood reduction plan that consists of a high-flow diversion channel located to the north of the Ottertail River and entering into the Red River and two separable permanent levee reaches that would protect all of Breckenridge. The estimated cost for the levees and diversion plan is \$22.2 million. Corps higher authority approved the feasibility study decision document in February 2001.

Additional

The state of Minnesota has indicated a strong desire to assist the city in cost sharing of the feasibility study and also in actual project construction funding.

The Plans and Specification work for this project are scheduled to begin in the spring of 2001 and funding to initiate this work is now available. Project cooperation agreement enactment and construction are scheduled for 2002 but are dependant on obtaining Congressional appropriations for this specific project.

Fiscal

Project design and construction costs are to be cost shared with the non-federal sponsor and the operation and maintenance costs are to be the responsibility of the non-federal sponsor.

General design	\$3,800,000
Construction	\$18,400,000
Estimated Federal cost	\$13,300,000
Estimated non-Federal cost	\$8,900,000